

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE                      May 1, 2009  
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## **BOYD ANNOUNCES FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF FOR NORTH FLORIDA COUNTIES**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Congressman Allen Boyd (D-North Florida) announced today that the President has declared a major disaster declaration for the North Florida counties of Alachua, Baker, Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Lafayette, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton.

"I am grateful that the President has recognized the need for federal assistance in the North Florida counties," Boyd said. "The declaration will release matching federal funds to state and local governments for emergency work and recovery efforts. President Obama also declared a major disaster declaration in Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Lafayette, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton counties. The declaration authorizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Individuals and Households program to provide assistance to individuals and households who have suffered a loss of their homes or businesses due to the disaster."

### **HERE'S HOW TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL-STATE STORM ASSISTANCE**

Federal and state disaster assistance is now available for people and businesses that need help recover from the recent disaster. Affected counties include Calhoun, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Lafayette, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton. State-Federal recovery programs are designed to give storm survivors a helping hand in their effort to recover. Before assistance can be provided, people must apply with FEMA. Anyone who has suffered uninsured losses may be eligible for assistance.

How do I apply for disaster help?

Those affected by the recent disaster may register online at any time and also check the status of their application at 800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 800-462-7585 for the hearing- or speech-impaired. Both numbers are open 24 hours a day.

Applicants must provide the following information:

- Social Security number;
- Telephone number where he or she can be reached;
- Address of the damaged property;
- Current mailing address;
- Brief description of disaster-related damages and losses;
- Insurance information; and
- Bank account address information.

Is there any cost associated with registering for disaster assistance?

No. There are no costs related to registering for or receiving federal disaster assistance. If anyone is asked to pay for federal disaster assistance, contact the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General.

What types of assistance can be provided?

The following list describes some of the types of assistance available to eligible applicants through FEMA's Individuals and Households program:

- Temporary Housing (a place to live for a limited period of time). Money is available for eligible applicants.
- Repair – Money is available to eligible homeowners to repair damage from the disaster that is not covered by insurance.
- Replacement – Money is available to a homeowner to replace an uninsured home destroyed in the disaster.
- Other Needs – Money is available for necessary expenses and serious needs caused by the disaster.
- U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) – low-interest disaster loans are available for homeowners.

Complete and return that SBA Loan Application

Temporary housing assistance from FEMA does not require that an applicant file for an SBA loan. However,

There are other ONA grants such as public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and

FEMA will process applications for housing assistance regardless of whether the applicant has applied for an SBA loan. Eligibility determinations for applicants requesting FEMA's temporary housing assistance will not be held up because the applicant has or has not filled out